Proposal for the 3rd MMHN Conference

Vera Costantini

Seizing a new opportunity. The Ottomans, Venice and la scala di Spalato.

This paper will deal with the late-16th-century project of establishing a satellite Venetian port in the Dalmatian city of Spalato. The sooner the Venetian leading class realised how crucial a closer connection with the Ottoman world had turned out to be after the loss of Cyprus, the more imperative the realisation of the project became. Nevertheless, the attempt to concentrate Venice’s trade with the Levant in Spalato encountered the fierce opposition of Ragusa and papal Ancona, two merchant centres whose interests would have been strongly disadvantaged by a reinforced edition of Venetian maritime monopoly in the Adriatic. Consequently, the Venetians had no choice but to persuade the sultan and the provincial representatives of his power to support their project, by diverting to Spalato the caravans formerly destined to Ragusa. The comparison between Ottoman and Venetian documents on the topic will allow to understand the reasons and the terms of their cooperation.
CV:
Graduated in history at the “Ca’ Foscari” University of Venice with a dissertation on 18th-century Venetian trade in Aleppo, PhD at EHESS (Paris) and “Ca’ Foscari” on the war of Cyprus from the Ottoman sources, Vera Costantini is now researcher of Turkish Language and Literature at “Ca’ Foscari”. She has published several articles on Early-Modern Veneto-Ottoman relationship, edited with Markus Koller a collective volume in honour of Suraiya Faroqhi (Living in the Ottoman Ecumenical Community. Essays in honour of Suraiya Faroqhi, Brill, Leiden-Boston 2008) and published a monography (Il sultano e l’isola contesa. Cipro tra eredità veneziana e potere ottomano, UTET, Torino 2009). Her field of current research is late 16th-century Venetian trade in Ottoman Bosnia.